

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5304

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAID, TH

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF RED/USOM RELATIONSHIPS

REF: A. STATE 107086; B. BANGKOK 8679; C. BANGKOK 9607;

D. STATE 137268; E. STATE 142287

1. EMBASSY FULLY SHARES WASHINGTON VIEWS THAT REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE DENIGRATED AS RESULT PLANNED CONSOLIDATION USAID ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND. HOWEVER, WE ALSO SUPPORT WASHINGTON POSITION THAT USG SHOULD ADOPT LOWER PROFILE IN THIS AREA AT SAME TIME IT ENCOURAGES INCREASED ASIAN INITIATIVES. THE ERA WE HAVE ENTERED FOR BILATERAL AS WELL AS REGIONAL ASSISTANCE CLEARLY CALLS FOR A TRIMMING OF AMERICAN REPRESENTATION AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD IN CONSONANCE WITH THE REDUCED RESOURCES BEING MADE AVAILABLE BY CONGRESS.

2. AN IMMEDIATE MOTIVATION FOR THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION OF ALL ECONOMIC AID ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT FROM THAILAND WAS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SEPARATE ENTITIES IN THIS AREA REPORTING DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR. SECOND OBJECTIVE WAS TO EFFECT GREATER DEGREE OF COORDINATION AMONG AID ACTIVITIES IN BANGKOK WHEN SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR USAID PHNOM PENH ARE BEING EXPANDED AND THOSE FOR LAOS ARE CONTINUING IN RESPONSE TO STILL UNCERTAIN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

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FOR THOSE COUNTRIES.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT (REF A) NEED INTERFERE WITH RED CONTINUING TO PERFORM A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF REDUCTION IN US INTERESTS. THE EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED THAT KENNETH RABIN AS DIRECTOR OF RED BE GRANTED THE SAME DIPLOMATIC TITLE OF COUNSELOR, REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AS HIS PREDECESSOR. MOREOVER, WE ACCEPT WASHINGTON DECISION THAT THE DIRECTOR OF RED REPORT DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR ON ECAFE MATTERS.

4. THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN DEVELOPED LOCALLY BETWEEN USOM AND RED ON BASIS OF DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A. ALTHOUGH THE SIGNERS OF THE DISSENT CABLE (REF B) HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO IT, THEY EXPECT IT TO BE IMPLEMENTED ONLY IN THE EVENT THE DECISION CONTAINED REF A IS REAFFIRMED. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW THIS REAFFIRMATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE. OFFICIALS IN COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS WILL STILL BE DEALING WITH AN OFFICER OF COUNSELOR RANK AS BEFORE WHO SERVES AS CHIEF OF RED. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WILL BE THAT THIS OFFICER WILL NOW REPORT TO THE AMBASSADOR THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF USOM RATHER THAN DIRECTLY, AND THE AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF HIS SENIOR AID OFFICER IN COUNTRY FOR COORDINATION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED ON BY THIS BANGKOK BASED STAFF. BEGIN TEXT. AID/W, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF EAST ASIA/STATE, HAS DETERMINED TO INTEGRATE CERTAIN RED FUNCTIONS WITH USOM/THAILAND OPERATIONS UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF USOM AND OVERALL DIRECTION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

BECAUSE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING A DISTINCT REGIONAL PROGRAM, RED WILL CONTINUE AS A SEPARATE OFFICE WITH ITS OWN DIRECTOR, WITH PROGRAM AUTONOMY WITHIN THE GENERAL GUIDELINES SET DOWN BY AID AND STATE. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED AMONG RED, USOM AND THE EMBASSY CONCERNING HOW RED AND USOM WILL FUNCTION UNDER THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT:

1. THE DIRECTOR OF RED WILL BE RESPONSIBLE, UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF USOM/THAILAND ACTING UNDER SUCH INSTRUCTIONS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AID/W, FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAM AND FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROGRAM AND PROJECT PROPOSALS. HIS OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE ALL NEGOTIATIONS AND HANDLING OF DETAILS OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WITH THE DIRECTORS AND STAFFS OF ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

2. FOR THOSE REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND HE WILL OBTAIN THE CONCURRENCE OF THE DIRECTOR OF USOM/THAILAND. FOR

THOSE RED ACTIVITIES IN THE OTHER SEVEN SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
THE DIRECTOR OF USOM MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS AS HE FEELS THESE ARE
APPROPRIATE FOR JOINT CONSIDERATION WITH RED RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES, INCLUDING ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS TO
WASHINGTON, AND ANY NEW AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES OR CHANGES IN PROGRAM
DIRECTION, WILL BE APPROVED BY THE USOM DIRECTOR. IF THERE ARE
DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF RED AND THE USOM DIRECTOR
WHICH CANNOT BE RESOLVED, THE RED DIRECTOR WILL SUBMIT HIS
RECOMMENDATIONS TO WASHINGTON AND THE USOM DIRECTOR WILL SUBMIT
COMMENTS THEREON.

4. THE RED DIRECTOR WILL BE THE ALLOTTEE FOR RED FUNDS AND WILL
HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SIGN OBLIGATING DOCUMENTS, TRAVEL AUTH-
ORIZATIONS, CABLES, ETC. WITHIN THE LIMITS SET BY AID/W.

5. RED WILL MOVE ITS OFFICES ABOUT MID-AUGUST TO THE USOM
BUILDING. ALL THOSE PERSONNEL WHO REPORT EXCLUSIVELY OR PRIMARILY
TO RED WILL BE HOUSED CONTIGUOUSLY.

6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR BOTH RED AND USOM WILL BE LODGED
IN A SINGLE OFFICER WHO WILL REPORT TO THE USOM DIRECTOR.
THE TRAVEL FUNCTIONS, CLEANING SERVICES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE
FUNCTIONS WILL BE INTEGRATED. RED WILL, HOWEVER, MAINTAIN ITS
OWN CENTRAL FILES.

7. THE DIRECTOR OF USOM/THAILAND SHALL PREPARE THE ANNUAL PER
FOR THE DIRECTOR OF RED.

8. ALL ACTIVITIES OF RED AND USOM WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE
SUBJECT TO THE OVERALL DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE AMBASSADOR.
END TEXT.

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